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WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon today asked House and Senate leaders on the committees with jurisdiction over the 2006 Water Resources Development Act to include several vital Louisiana projects in their final conference report. Melancon requested authorization for four projects identified in discussions between the New Orleans District Office of the US Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita as critical for hurricane protection and coastal restoration in southern Louisiana.

**"Six years have passed since the last water resources authorization bill was signed into law. In that time, 104 tropical storms and hurricanes have swept through the Gulf of Mexico,"** wrote Melancon. **"Today, critical coastal restoration and hurricane protection projects still await authorization so that Louisiana and other Gulf Coast states can begin work on protecting our fragile coastline and our citizens."**

The four projects identified by the state and the Corps are:

- **Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet Modification** - Six month study to determine approach on navigation feature modification and ecosystem restoration.
  
- **Hurricane Barrier East of the Mississippi River** - Initiation of detailed design and analysis and environmental compliance for a hurricane barrier east of the Mississippi River.
  
- **Barataria Basin Shoreline Restoration** - Recommend completion of feasibility level decision document and continuation of PED for Barataria Basin Barrier Shoreline Restoration as described in the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Program Chief's Report from 2005.

- **Southwest Louisiana Protection and Restoration through various CWPPRA projects** - Recommend construction of specific Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act Projects in southwest Louisiana.

Melancon also requested consideration for several other priorities in the Third Congressional District, some of which are included in H.R. 5461, the *Meeting Authorization Requirements for the Coast Act*, which Melancon introduced in May.

The letter was sent to Senator James Inhofe and Senator James Jeffords, chairman and ranking member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, respectively; and Rep. Don Young and Rep. James Oberstar, chairman and ranking member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, respectively.

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